20 June 1969
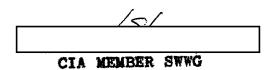
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Strategic Warning Working Group Meeting--
           20 June 1969

1. All members of the Group were given special
briefings in the office of RADM Harlfinger in the
Pentagon.

2. The Group then moved to the NIC conference
room for an oral report by Dr. Tom Belden of IDA on
his organization's findings regarding the role of
the NIC in the warning mechanism and, indeed, on
broader aspects of the warning system as it is pres-
ently organized (or disorganized). The final report
will be published on or about 15 July.

3. IDA found much confusion in the community
over what NIC was and where it is located, over
what is the function of indications, and over who
is in charge of processing warning information. The
report offers a number of recommendations, some of
which are in the technical field (i.e. communications),
others in the organizational field. Central to the
whole problem, IDA thinks, is the need to arrive at a
clear definition of warning indications and a spell-
ing out of the scope of responsibilities. IDA also
thinks that because much of what enemy or hostile
nations do in a military or political sense is in
response to what the US does, there should be more
J-3 and State policy inputs to the system.

4.   In general, the IDA people seem to have grasped the nub of the problem and to have applied some rather good logic leading to their conclusions and recommendations. Their written report will have to be studied very carefully and it is clear to me that some of it will be provocative and some of it highly controversial.

5.   Belden told the Warning Group audience that General Maxwell Taylor, President of IDA, had had a keen interest in IDA's study of this subject and had followed its progress from the start. Belden had recently briefed General Taylor on the contents of the report.

/s/

CIA MEMBER SWWG

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